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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 11 – 20 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. On Thursday, February 7th, applicant's representative i.e., Jennifer Hood, Reg. No. 61,142, authorized examiner to amend the following claims by way of Examiner's Amendment responsive to the examiner's requirements. An Interview summary has been included.

Regarding claim 21.

Claim 21 is canceled.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reason for allowance:
4. Claims 11 – 20 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP 2111.01, none of the prior art of record teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. In particular, as pointed out below, the art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claim(s).
5. The features recited in claim 1, "reducing the value of the control ratio if the time response of the actual value has a dwell time during which the actual value of the controlled variable varies within the tolerance band, said dwell time being smaller than a first defined time

period during operation of the technical plant, wherein a duration of the dwell time relative to a duration of the first defined time period is selected to determine a sufficiently fast rate of change of the controlled variable relative to a time constant of the component, and wherein the reduction of the value of the control ratio is configured to reduce the rate of change of the controlled variable”.

6. The features recited in claim 16, “the value of the control ratio is reduced by the adaptation device if the time response of the actual value has a dwell time during which the actual value of the controlled variable varies within the tolerance band, said dwell time being smaller than a first defined time period, wherein a duration of the dwell time relative to a duration of the first defined time period is selected to determine a sufficiently fast rate of change of the controlled variable relative to a time constant of the component, and wherein the reduction of the value of the control ratio...by the adaptation device is configured to reduce the rate of change of the controlled variable”.

as mentioned above, the art lacks certain features and the combination when taken in context of the claim(s) as a whole, was not uncovered in the prior art. Moreover, the dependent claims 12 – 15 and 17 – 20 are allowed as they depend upon an allowable independent claim(s).

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments regarding Statement of Reason for Allowance”.

Correspondence Information

8. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunray Chang, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 6:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3682 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3682 or email sunray.chang@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady may be reached on (571) 272-3819.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free @ 1-866-217-9197.

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Patent Examiner
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United States Department of Commerce
Patent & Trademark Office
/S. C./ Examiner, Art Unit 2121

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Art Unit: 2121

/Albert DeCady/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2121